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CROWD BOOS MRS. GEO. WONG

Mrs. George Wong, wife of George Wong, on trial for high treason at the Supreme Court, was the centre of hostile demonstration in Des Voeux Road last evening after the Court had adjourned.

Mrs. Wong, who had been called as a witness for the defence in the afternoon, left the Court at about 5.30 when the court rose.

Chinese who had been in Court while she was giving evidence started booing her in the street and two or three women accompanying her, and within a minute or two she was the centre of an angry crowd.

The crowd booed and shouted remarks at Mrs. Wong who was protected by a British officer. She was escorted into Windsor House, when the crowd dispersed.

Grave Food Situation In S.E. Asia

Singapore, April 17.
The big food conference which opened here on Monday has placed before the British Government the full gravity of the South East Asia situation for the urgent consideration of the combined food board in Washington. This was announced in a communique issued at a closed conference today.

The communique states: "The conference took note of the provisional allocations of cereals made to South East Asia by the combined food board, and of the fact that these envisaged drastic cuts in the allocations proposed as recently as March 26 to this area, for the second three months of this year."

"The conference took further note of statements published recently in other parts of the world regarding improvement in the general food situation, and expressed concern at the public's impression in South East Asia that improvement in other parts of the world had been achieved at the expense of territories in South East Asia."

"The conference resolved unanimously to do all in its power to prevent the imposition of any cuts and to press for the reallocation of adequate stocks of cereals for South East Asia."

Measures discussed by the conference, included the provision of tugs, lighters, barges, locomotives, railway wagons, more large coastal shipping, the importation of dehydrated foods from Australia, the maintenance of the Burma transportation system, the dredging of Bangkok's sandbar, the extended use of parboiled and lightly milled rice, the elimination of waste and the provision of textiles and other inducement goods.

These measures demonstrate the high importance of the transport problem, said the communique, adding: "At the same time, the conference reiterated the view that the key solution of the pressing problem with which they were confronted, was the immediate release of existing rice stocks in Siam. They took steps to impress all concerned of the danger of any further delay."—Reuter.

ALEKHINE BURIED

Lisbon, Apr. 17.
Dr. Alexander Alekhine, former world chess champion, who was found dead over his chess board in a Lisbon hotel three weeks ago after he had choked on a piece of meat, was buried today.—Reuter.

STORY OF LETTER Witness Changes His Opinion Wong Certificate Now Mislaid

PEACE TREATIES

Washington, Apr. 17.
Secretary of State James Byrnes told a press conference today that failure to agree at the forthcoming Paris conference might force Britain, France and the United States to sign separate peace treaties.

He could not speculate on possible failure but did not altogether deny the possibility of separate peace treaties being signed with former German satellite nations.

Mr. Byrnes also said that the State Department had no knowledge of any German factories working on atomic research in Spain.—Reuter.

SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

Moscow, April 17.
The Soviet magazine "New Times" gave this definition of the foreign policy of the Soviet Government:

"The Soviet Union wants to make sure peace for all nations, security for her borders and peaceful and friendly governments in neighbouring countries."

"The Soviet Union wants strengthening of international friendship on the basis of equality of States and not the domination of some states by others."

The magazine said there was no "mystery" in the Soviet foreign policy, which was not only expressed in official documents but also in absolutely clear facts.—Reuter.

WRENS TO LEAVE HONG KONG

Twenty young English WRENS who for six months have dazzled the eyes of everybody and charmed the hearts of many are saying farewell to Hong Kong this week.

They sail for home on Saturday aboard H.M.S. "Speaker" under the command of their popular O.C., First Officer Margaret Bray, leaving behind them evidence of a difficult job, well done.

RELEASE PLANS AFTER JUNE

London, April 17.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Callaghan, Labour Member for Cardiff South, asked if the Minister of Labour could now announce a further programme of releases from the forces beyond June next.

Mr. Isaacs replied that under the provisional programme the estimated number of men and women to be released and discharged in the third quarter of this year would be 532,400, bringing the cumulative total since June 18, 1945, up to 3,988,000.

He was asked by the Service Ministers to make it clear that, though as far as possible men and women would be released in accordance with this provisional programme, compulsory deferment of release of a number of individuals would continue to be necessary, and as in the past there would be some inequality in the rate of release for certain branches of categories and trades in the Navy and R.A.F.

Mr. Isaacs said that by the end of September, part of Group 55 would be reached in the Navy, involving 121,000 men. In the Army, part of Group 40—involving 251,000 men—would be reached, and in the R.A.F. part of Group 46, involving 128,050 men.

In the Women's auxiliary service Group 59, involving 5,000 women would be reached; in the Navy, part of Group 52, involving 11,700 in the Army, and Group 49, involving 14,700 in the R.A.F.—Reuter.

A LETTER WRITTEN BY HECTOR LEE WHICH THE CROWN PROSECUTOR SAID WAS FOUND AT HIS HOUSE FOLLOWING HIS ARREST WAS INTRODUCED INTO HIS CROSS-EXAMINATION YESTERDAY WHEN LEE GAVE EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF GEORGE WONG, ON TRIAL FOR HIGH TREASON BEFORE A GENERAL MILITARY COURT.

LEE ADMITTED THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER BUT SAID HE HAD WRITTEN IT AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WONG WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARREST OF HIS FRIEND, ENRIQUE LEE, AND HAD MEANT TO DENOUNCE GEORGE WONG. HE TOLD THE COURT THAT HE WAS NOW OF A DIFFERENT OPINION AND WOULD DENY THE TRUTH OF ALLEGATIONS HE MADE IN THE LETTER.

Evidence was given yesterday by Eddie Remedios, interpreter for Capt. Lee at the interrogation of the accused the day after his arrest, that a certificate and badge had been shown Wong by Capt. Lee which accused had claimed as his.

Mr. da Silva told the Court that a thorough investigation had been made with regard to the whereabouts of this certificate and badge, but that these had not been found. He had been instructed to ask the Court for comment on this which would be passed on to the proper authorities.

First witness called by the defence yesterday was So Leung, who said that he was, in June, 1943, a Special Detective attached to the Gendarmierie in Kowloon. On June 4, he saw George Wong tied up in the Kowloon Magistracy. Seeing the condition Wong was in, he did not look too long at him, but left after a glance. He was under the impression that Wong was under arrest.

Were you surprised to see George Wong arrested by the Gendarmierie?—Not at all. Arrests by the Gendarmierie were very common.

Would it surprise you if I told you that accused has admitted that he was a detective of the Kowloon going about with me? I met him once or twice greeting him. He very seldom gave me a receipt. I did not notice he was carrying a revolver. It was absurd looking at people to see if they were carrying guns.

It was your business as a detective to be inquiring about every person you met?—What right had I to investigate him?

Mr. Leo d'Almada: You mean you had no right to investigate him because you were also in the service?—No. I did not know what he was then doing.

Hector Lee's Evidence
The next witness called was Hector Lee, alias Lei Yik-doh. Referred by Mr. Hin-shing Lo to the evidence of William Lee with regard to the conversation alleged to have taken place between himself, accused and William Lee, when accused had said that Hector Lee had already arrested somebody who could tell him of Henry Lee and the arrest was mentioned of an Indian called Castro, he denied the allegation.

Mr. da Silva: You are detained today at Stanley Prison?—Yes. About seven months already.

You have not been charged?—Not even put up for identification.

I believe, Hector Lee, if you are charged that you have, in your estimation, a complete defence to the charge, against you?—Who would not adopt such an attitude if charged.

(Continued on Pages 5 and 6)

German War Vets. Purge

BAOR H.Q., Ger., Apr. 17.

The Allied Military Government in Germany intensifying their drive against German war veterans' organisations, today ordered the seizure of all property belonging to such groups, freezing of their accounts and declaration of the assets.

The largest of these organisations is the Kyffhäuser, an organisation named after the mountain where, according to legend, Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, symbol of German militarism, sits in a cave surrounded by his knights, waiting to come to Germany's rescue in her hour of need.

This organisation owns the mountain concerned south of Brunswick in Central Germany.—Reuter.

Jerusalem, Apr. 16.

General Sir Alan Cunningham, High Commissioner for Palestine, tonight assured Chief Rabbi Herzog, Dr. Bernard Joseph of the Jewish Agency and Ben Zvi of the Jewish National Council that a sufficient number of immigration certificates would be allotted to permit the 1,200 Jewish immigrants detained at La Spezia, Italy, to proceed to Palestine.—Reuter.

Athens, Apr. 17.
Herbert Hoover, former United States President, arrived here by air yesterday en route to Cairo.—Associated Press.

FOOD CRISIS

Washington, Apr. 17.
According to well-informed quarters in Washington, decisions to divert wheat from British stocks and to cut American home consumption of flour by 25 per cent. have been taken.

The plan for the flour cut has been fully endorsed by President Truman's Far East Emergency Committee. Herbert Lehman, recently retired Director-General of the U.N.I.C.R.A., last night accused the United States Government of negligence and the American public of indifference to the present world food crisis. He urged the Government to reintroduce rationing to increase its exports.—Reuter.

SMITHFIELD STRIKE OVER

London, April 17.

The strike at Smithfield market, London's principal meat and provisions depot, ended today, following a meeting at which the men reached a practically unanimous decision to resume work at once.

The strike began at the beginning of last week when men handling provisions refused to handle London's food supplies, demanding a higher wage increase than the Joint Industrial Council had awarded them.

When troops were sent to the market yesterday to act as porters, workers in the meat market struck work and this morning the transport workers also stopped working.

The decision to return to work was made on the understanding that the question of the award of three shillings as against the claim of five shillings per week will be reopened with the Joint Industrial Council.

Arthur Deakin, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union said today that "in the event of the Council failing to agree the issue will be referred to arbitration."—Reuter.

LASKI AND SOVIET RUSSIA'S ATTITUDE

ROME, APRIL 17.
PROFESSOR HAROLD LASKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY, SAID TODAY THAT THE FOUNDING OF A SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DEPENDS ON RUSSIA'S ATTITUDE.

"UNTIL WE KNOW WHETHER RUSSIA IS READY TO ACCEPT THE PAST 25 YEARS' EXPERIENCE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WE SHALL NOT TAKE ANY STEPS IN FOUNDING SUCH INTERNATIONAL," HE SAID.

"After the British Labour Party conference, which is to be held in June, we shall seek authority to send a British delegation to Russia to hold a series of soundings, conferences with the Communists to ascertain their true attitude towards the democracies."

Formation of a Social International would be very difficult if the Soviet Union had not the same ideals of democracy and liberty, Mr. Laski stated.

Declaring that Italy had a great task of reconstruction to carry out, he added: "I will try and make the British Government understand that Italy should get long-term loans for coal and raw materials to contribute to the re-building not only of herself, but also her sphere in Europe. Europe without Italy would not be complete."

Discussing the "very urgent" problem of uniting the three groups into which he said the Italian Socialist Party is divided, Mr. Laski declared: "I think Pietro Nenni (Italian Socialist Party leader) is a great man, who is of tremendous use to the party at the moment."—Reuter.

SERVICE MEN'S OLD PETS

London, Apr. 16.
Servicemen returning from abroad have brought pets ranging from monkeys to crocodiles to the London Zoological Society.

The annual report issued today records that a Sergeant Cousins gave up his monkey for the entertainment of London's millions, while Flight Lieutenant G. H. Grant brought back a crocodile. An Army major presented ten poisonous snakes.—Reuter.

U.N.O. WILL TACKLE SPAIN QUESTION

New York, April 16.
The United Nations Security Council today decided to tackle the controversial Spanish question on Wednesday after a surprise move by Secretary-General Trygve Lie had blocked action on the Russian attempt to close the Iranian case.

After a two-hour debate in which the United States delegate, Edward R. Stettinius, intimated he believed Russia had exerted pressure to get Iran to withdraw her complaint, the Council decided it could not vote on the Russian motion for two days and then adjourned till Wednesday when it will take up Poland's charge that Franco Spain threatens world peace.

Lie unexpectedly entered the Iranian case by submitting legal opinion which, in effect, agreed with Russia's contention that the Council had no right to keep the case on the Agenda.

The opinion was submitted when Russia apparently faced a defeat with eight votes lined up against her.

Lie contended that since Iran has withdrawn her complaint no dispute exists.

Lie said: "It may well be" all to keep the case on the Agenda under the Charter.

The Chairman of the Council, Doctor Quo Tsi-chi, immediately referred the opinion to the Council's committee on rules and procedure with instructions to report back Thursday.

The members agreed that no vote could be taken until then.

Russia, Poland and France insisted that the Council meet on Wednesday to discuss Spain.

"ILLOGICAL"

Stettinius said his opposition to the Russian attempt to erase the case from the Agenda did not in any way mean that the United States questioned Russia's integrity.

Calling Stettinius' position "illogical" the Russian delegate, Andrei Gromyko, said: "The delegate from the United States sacrifices logic in order to prolong and inflame this so-called Iranian question."

"I called things by their names yesterday (Monday) and I did not expect the delegate of the United States to agree."

Gromyko had expressed "doubt that the United States and Britain want a peaceful settlement of the case."

The Netherlands delegate, Edo van Kleeffens, said that only the Council could decide what should be on the Agenda.

On Gromyko's assertion that the Council would be interfering with Iran's sovereignty if it kept the case on the Agenda, Van Kleeffens said this would "leave the door wide open for big powers to bring diplomatic pressure on small powers to prevent them from bringing cases before the Council."—Associated Press.

WIFE TRIES TO STOW AWAY
Southampton, April 17.
Wearing a Canadian Army battledress, a beret and boots, 20-year-old Mrs. Pauline Clarke tried to board the liner "He de France" yesterday with Canadian troops, in an attempt to join her husband, Staff Sergeant Anthony Clarke.

On reaching the gangway, she could not produce her embarkation card, and the deception was revealed.

Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Clarke were married in January, and Mrs. Clarke has been living at Bordon to be near her husband, who was in camp at Bramshott. Yesterday she went to Bramshott in a battledress left behind by her husband and was driven in a lorry with Canadian soldiers to a railway station.

She came to Southampton Docks in a special train, loaded with Canadian troops, and was marching a few places behind her husband, in a line of men going on board the liner, when she was stopped by an officer.

In a shed, Mrs. Clarke changed from her husband's uniform to civilian clothes which she had in a bag. She was taken to Police Headquarters at Southampton, and after being questioned, she was allowed to go.

Mrs. Clarke, who comes from Tipperary, was expected back in London today at her home in Talbot Road, Westbourne Grove.—Reuter.

TRIPOLITANIA

Damascus, Apr. 16.
Abdurrhaman Azzam, Secretary of the Arab League, stated at a press conference that the Arab League was firmly opposed to the return of Tripolitania to Italy.

He expressed strong hopes that the efforts made for the liberation of Tripolitania will be successful, particularly in view of the resistance of its own population to all attempts at colonisation under any form.—Reuter.

THE WEATHER

Today's forecast: Fair to cloudy, light north easterly wind. Yesterday's temperature: Maximum—51 deg. at 2 p.m. Minimum—40 deg. at 6 a.m. Sunshine—2 1/2 hours. Wind—North by East. Humidity—95 per cent. at 9 a.m.

CHINA MAIL

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Nomads

The U.N.O., which has been wrestling with a tangled problem in international politics, is making itself rather ridiculous by its inability to decide a small domestic problem—where it is to be accommodated. With the Security Council meeting now in progress at Hunter College in New York, U.N.O. is occupying its third temporary home in less than a year. San Francisco, London and New York—three very crowded cities—have all had to double up to find room for the peripatetic peacekeepers. U.N.O., in fact, seems condemned to lead the vagrant life of a gypsy. And no permanent home has been decided on. The proposal that a permanent international enclave should be found for it in Westchester County, New York, and Fairfield County, Connecticut, has already provoked the wrath of the local inhabitants. Now there are reports that the selection of this site is being questioned, on the grounds of military security, by the United States Army and Navy Intelligence, and also by J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation. They point out that it is proposed to give wide diplomatic immunities to hundreds of foreigners in one of the most strategic areas in the United States. The proposed site is within 30 miles of America's greatest port, New York City, and its greatest naval arsenal, the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It is immediately adjacent to Bridgeport, Connecticut, which has one of the largest munitions and machine-tool plants in the United States. Security officials in Washington are saying that the proposed enclave would be an ideal centre for international espionage. There is, of course, one simple solution whereby U.N.O. can end its unhappy wanderings and find immediately a permanent home where it would be welcome and would be assured of the finest accommodation. The solution is so simple that it has already been rejected. The proper home for U.N.O. is, of course, Geneva, which has the good fortune to be in Switzerland, whose geography and foreign policy have combined to keep it neutral for hundreds of years. Geneva has everything that U.N.O. needs on a magnificent scale, including the immense building which was completed for the League of Nations just before the war. The only arguments that are urged against Geneva are frivolous in the extreme. Some people have urged that U.N.O.'s prospects would be blighted if it were to grow up in the atmosphere which saw the birth and death of the League of Nations. This argument is about as valid as the assertion by the Soviet Foreign Commissar, Mr. Molotov, that Switzerland is a hotbed of Fascism. But he, of course, may be prejudiced. Russia is sensitive about returning to the place from which she was expelled in 1939 after her invasion of Finland. But Russia ought to have enough self-confidence by now to rise above such considerations.

ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE

Three unemployed Chinese, were before the Standing Military Court yesterday, on charges of armed robbery at No. 28, Bowring Road, second floor, on March 30.

It was alleged that accused, with another man not in custody, gained entrance to the above premises, armed with four daggers and an imitation hand-grenade, held up the occupants and robbed them of money and jewellery.

Inspector Lee of No. 2 Police Station, said that identification parade was held at Western Police Station, and accused were picked out by the complainant. After further evidence, the case was adjourned.

Case Against Gehring Withdrawn

Committal Proceedings

A case of armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, torture and escape, was heard by Mr. W. H. Latimer yesterday in committal proceedings against Lau Kam-sui at the Summary Military Court, Kowloon.

Chief Detective-Inspector N. B. Fraser was in charge of the prosecution.

Accused, Ng Yee-chau and Lau Kam-sui, were charged with kidnapping Cheung Hoi-lai, Cheung Hoi-man, Yim Chan and Chui Siu-ting at Ching Shan Village, N.T., and holding them to \$9,700 ransom.

First witness, Cheung Hoi-lai, a fish-stall holder, stated that at 8.15 p.m. on Feb. 26, he was having tea at Tung Sum Tea House, Ching Shan, when four unknown Chinese entered. There were about 20 villagers in the tea house. Two of the new arrivals were armed and one of the armed men had his face covered with a handkerchief. The other two were holding coils of rope which they used to bind up the four victims and another named Lau Choi. All the inmates were searched. The five bound men were then taken down the street where there were six more robbers of whom five were armed with revolvers. The party then proceeded to a place by the sea called Hak Sui Kok. On the way, Lau Choi escaped. The four victims were rowed out to a junk and placed in the hold. Later, they were transferred to a smaller boat. On this small boat, the robbers demanded \$5,500 from the Cheung brothers, \$800 from Yim Chan who was the master of the Tea House and \$400 from Chui Yiu-ting.

They were told that if the money was not paid, they would be shot. All of them were kicked and the water torture was administered to Cheung Hoi-man, who was master of the Hop Shing Grocers at Ching Shan. The boat travelled for another day when they were put ashore at 7 p.m. Cheung Hoi-lai and Yim Chan were taken to a derelict house and kept there under guard for six or seven days when they escaped to Tai Ping. The other two were told to collect the ransoms for all four and set free next morning. When Cheung Hoi-man reached home, he borrowed \$1,400 from friends and with \$600 of his own, told his nephew to take the money to Tai Ping. The nephew stayed there for a week but could not contact the robbers. When Cheung Hoi-lai reached home he found that he was robbed of clothing to the value of \$1000. The Cheung brothers and Yim Chan were called but said they could not identify the robbers.

Of the three accused, Ng Yee-chau was discharged, and Lau Kam-sui died in hospital about a week ago. The case was adjourned.

Obituary

J. E. Joseph

It is with regret that we have to record the death which occurred on Tuesday night, after a short illness, of Mr. Joseph Edgar Joseph, one of the Colony's best known residents. He was in his 64th year.

An exchange broker and the owner of considerable property, the late Mr. Joseph first came to Hong Kong in 1884 as a small child, and spent most of his life here and in Shanghai.

During the later years of his life, he was a generous supporter of local charities of every kind, and of organisations like the New Territories Agricultural Association, the Jewish Synagogue, and the Po Leung Kuk. He also made large gifts to the Hebrew University in Palestine and to the needy among the Jewish community in Shanghai.

He leaves a brother, Mr. Felix A. Joseph, and a sister, Mrs. Juliet Toledano.

The funeral will take place today at 12.30 p.m., with interment at the Jewish Cemetery.

FERRY FARES

Passenger fares on the Yau-ma-tei, Mongkok and Shamshuipo runs are being brought in line with those charged by the Star Ferry. Revised fares on other runs are as follows:

Hong Kong-Cheungchau:
1st class 80 cts.
2nd class 60 cts.
Hong Kong-Tai O:
1st class \$1.20
2nd class 1.00
Hong Kong-Castle Peak:
1st class 60 cts.
2nd class 50 cts.
Hong Kong-Aberdeen:
1st class 80 cts.
2nd class 35 cts.
Hong Kong-Nomans:
1st class \$1.20
2nd class 1.00

The No. 1 House Boy, of the Hotel Centre, Kowloon Hotel, who was seriously warned by Mr. W. H. Latimer yesterday for stealing two tins of potatoes and Compo rations and three pounds of bread.

"MAY I ASK THAT THIS STATEMENT BE GIVEN FULL PUBLICITY SO THAT MR. GEHRING DOES NOT FIND HIMSELF IN A HOSTILE WORLD THAT HAS PREJUDGED HIM," SAID MR. D. H. BLAKE IN THE SUMMARY MILITARY COURT YESTERDAY, WHEN THE CROWN SOUGHT PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW THE CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON AGAINST C. A. GEHRING, ARCHITECT, WHO WORKED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN HONG KONG DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION.

THE APPLICATION, WHICH WAS GRANTED BY MR. A. EL ARCULLI, WAS MADE BY MR. M. A. DA SILVA WHO SAID THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WAS NOT REQUESTED BECAUSE THE CROWN HAD NO CASE, BUT BECAUSE OF THE DECLARATION OF AN AMNESTY.

Making the application Mr. da Silva said:

"Gehring was charged with three overt acts, the first of which was pointing out targets, the second was writing and sending a letter to Yamoto, and the third was assisting in an investigation concerning three Belgians suspected of having wireless sets for espionage activities."

"The Only Reason"

"You are aware that recently an amnesty was declared in respect of certain political prisoners, the terms of which include others than those who took part in the torture of loyal persons. In the present circumstances, under the terms of the amnesty, the Crown felt, in the first instance, that the first charge might justify Gehring being excluded from the terms of the amnesty. However, the matter has been decided and I am directed to apply for a withdrawal of the charges against Gehring."

It must be clearly specified that this withdrawal is not made because the Crown has no case. The only reason for the withdrawal is the declaration of the amnesty.

"The Crown is taking other steps in the matter which are extrajudicial."

Defence Statement

Mr. Blake said:—"The Crown has withdrawn these serious charges. The principle of British justice is that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty. Therefore, in the eyes of the law, Mr. Gehring is innocent of these charges. Unfortunately, the world is suffering from war, and a common symptom is that the man in the street is prone to condemn rather than to take a kinder view of charges of this character."

Great publicity has been given to these charges throughout the Far East, Switzerland, and the British Empire. I trust that the remarks that I am about to make will be given similar publicity."

Mr. Gehring is an architect. He was employed by various well-known firms on important works in Hong Kong and the Far East. During the few months preceding the war, he was practising on his own account.

During the war, he was working for the International Red Cross and Mr. Zindel, Delegate of the I.R.C. in Hong Kong, informed me that he was hard-working and conscientious in his duties and that his efforts were of great value to Internees and Prisoners of War and other persons in receipt of help from the I.R.C. These charges, therefore, are all the more serious when laid against a man in his position.

Lack of Information

No evidence has been adduced by the Prosecution. They had no opportunity to do so. We do not know the names of their witnesses and we have no further information of the charges than those set out in the Statement dated 19th February, 1946, which was published in full in all the papers. There were three Queset Acts outlined. I will deal with these in order.

The first was that, on or about 14th December 1941, Mr. Gehring aided and assisted the Japanese in the prosecution of the war by way of printing out and locating to the enemy targets and points in the Colony of Hong Kong with a view to artillery fire of the Japanese being directed at or toward such targets or points. Your Worship, if such a charge, without particulars, were made against you or any other innocent person, what could you say in answer except that you are innocent. That is the position of Mr. Gehring. He emphatically denies that he committed this heinous offence but without details of the accusation he can give no specific answers to the charge.

(Continued on Page 3)

K.C.R. Schedules

A new timetable for both local and through train service to Canton has been announced by the Kowloon-Canton Railway, to become effective on Sunday.

A motor express has been added to the service and is scheduled to do the trip from Hongkong to Canton in five and a half hours.

The express is a converted motor rail trolley fitted to carry some 53 passengers at a fare of HK\$25. From Hongkong and CN\$5,400, from Canton.

Seats may be booked beforehand and registered.

Under the new timetable, it is to be observed, the "Through Slow" (No. 42) will act as a local, leaving Kowloon at 9.30 a.m. as far as Shum Chun, and the other up locals are 12 noon and 4.45 p.m. Similarly the "Down Through Slow" (No. 41) forms the last down local, leaving Shum Chun at 6.23 p.m. and the other down locals are 9.05 a.m., and 2 p.m., from Lowu.

BEETHOVEN'S "EIGHTH"

At the Gramophone Concerts which are held every Sunday afternoon at the Catholic Centre, the Symphonies of Beethoven have been played in order from the First to the Seventh.

The Eighth is due on Sunday, April 28th, but so far no recording of this Symphony has been located in Hong Kong. If there is anyone who has a set of the records and would be willing to lend them for playing on Sunday week, he is asked to communicate with the Catholic Centre, King's Building, (Tel. 22187) or with Fr. Ryan (Tel. Office, 39679; home 32335 or 23373).

Beheaded Two Men With His Sword

A STORY OF HOW HE BEHEADED TWO CHINESE WITH HIS SWORD ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS SUPERIOR OFFICER WAS RECOUNTED BY SGT. MAJOR UCHIDA HIROSHI TO THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL YESTERDAY WHEN TESTIFYING IN HIS OWN BEHALF AT THE RESUMED TRIAL OF 14 JAPANESE FOR WAR CRIMES ON LANTAU ISLAND BETWEEN AUGUST 18 AND 25.

Uchida, 5th accused, told the Court that around 9 p.m. on August 21 his superior officer, Lieut. Matsumoto, ordered him to execute two Chinese, So Po-hwa and Leung Ting-cheung, because they had taken part in the guerrilla attack on the Kishi Company on August 18.

Giving further reasons why Lieut. Matsumoto decided to execute them, he said that both So and Leung had attempted to escape many times, that Lieut. Matsumoto feared a second attack on the Company since signals had been observed from the hill, and that Matsumoto also had been very worried over the non-return of Lieut. Kishi, at the expected time.

"As I knew the situation at that time was tense," added Uchida, "I thought the execution was inevitable."

"Don't Remember Now"

"I took So and Leung to the place where preparations for the execution had been made by other soldiers," accused continued, and added: "I made them squat on the ground, covered their eyes and chopped off their heads."

Capt. Reilly: Was Matsumoto with you at the execution? Yes, he was standing behind me. Did you see any soldiers beat up Chinese suspects gathered outside the barracks during the interrogation?—I saw three soldiers strike several suspects.

Asked by the President, accused said that he had not received any instructions regarding Japanese military laws. He simply followed his superior officer's order to carry out the execution.

The President: Do you know or don't you know it is a crime to kill a civilian without a fair trial?—Yes, I know it is a crime in ordinary cases. I thought I was right to do it at that time. And I still don't think it was a crime when I beheaded them under such a circumstance.

ADMIRAL JOY LEAVING

In a brief ceremony on board his flagship, U.S.S. Los Angeles, Rear Admiral C. T. Joy, U.S.N., yesterday relinquished his command of U.S. Naval Task Force 74, a command he has held since January 16 this year.

His successor is Rear-Admiral Willard A. Kitts, who arrived here on Tuesday via Pearl Harbor and Shanghai, where he conferred with the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, and the commander of the United States Seventh Fleet.

Admiral Joy departs shortly for the United States and a new position as commandant of the Navy's Proving Grounds at Dahlgren, Virginia. Prior to coming to Hong Kong, the Admiral was in command of U.S. Naval Task Force 73, and in his flagship U.S.S. Nashville, entered the Yangtze river and moored at Naval Buoy No. 1 at Shanghai on September 13.

As commander of Task Force 75 it was his responsibility to open the port of Shanghai to world trade by removing both the wrecks and mines that infested the lifeline of China.

The port was declared "open" in early October. His task in the South China area has been to assist in the Repatriation programme, the Chinese National Army lifts and the minesweeping of the harbours and approaches thereto.

In parting, Admiral Joy said he wished to thank his personal staff, his task group and Task Unit commanders and the commanding officers of vessels under his operational control for the wholehearted co-operation they have at all times shown him.

Rear-Admiral Kitt's most recent position was an assistant Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance in the Navy Department. Prior to that he was commanding officer of the Cruiser Northampton and the battleship U.S.S. Nevada, both veterans of many Pacific campaigns.

WELCOME TO GEN. CHIANG

Mr. Tung Chung-wai and Mr. H. Y. Tso, chairman and secretary respectively of the Hong Kong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, left for Canton yesterday by CNAO plane.

Mr. Tung's mission in Canton is to represent the Chinese mercantile community of Hong Kong in tendering a public welcome to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek on his pending visit to South China.

DRAINPIPE CLIMBER

The body of an unknown Chinese was found outside 92, Bonham Road, about 7 o'clock last night. The man had received severe head injuries and a broken spine. It is believed he attempted to climb up a drainpipe and fell.

LABEL PRICES ONLY

A move, certain to be appreciated by the public, has been made by the Administration to prevent retailers of proprietary medicines and toilet preparations charging more than the label price.

It is an offence to sell improperly labelled goods; that is, an article bearing a 20 cent label must not be sold for more than \$2.20.

Where retailers attempt to sell such articles over and above the prescribed amount, the public are invited to send or phone their complaints to the Department of Imports and Exports.

The complaints may be addressed to any of the following: Mr. H. A. Taylor (Phone—39248), Messrs. H. R. J. Wolfe Flanagan and David J. McWhirter (39301), Mr. U. Kam Ping (39249) and Mr. Lo Kwong-to (39243).

A cat-burglar, Wong Kum, was sentenced to one year's hard labour by Mr. W. H. Latimer yesterday, for entering No. 81, Sai Yee Street, ground floor, during the early morning of April 14 and stealing property valued at \$450.

For stealing three cases of gunpowder from No. 13 Tunnel, Whitefield Barracks, Ma Chi Chun was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour by Mr. W. H. Latimer yesterday. Inspector Askew prosecuted.

Money Mart

Increased buying enquiries were responsible for an appreciation in rates for both Chinese national currency and gold on the money market yesterday.

Chinese national currency rose from HK\$2.41 for futures and \$2.50 for spot (per CN\$1,000) in the morning to \$2.49 and \$2.57 respectively at the close.

Gold opened at \$420 per tael and closed at \$420.

There was also an all round appreciation in foreign currencies. U.S. dollars had buyers at \$4.70 for large notes and \$4.60 for small, and English Sterling and Australian pounds were in demand at \$17.00 and \$12.00 respectively.

Shanghai Exchange

Shanghai, Apr. 17. Closing exchange rates in the Shanghai market today were:—Gold, per ounce:—Buying CN\$162,000, Selling CN\$163,000. U.S. Dollar:—Buying CN\$2,030, Selling CN\$2,050.

Hong Kong Dollar (old and new):—Buying CN\$375, Selling CN\$385.—Associated Press.

** Opening rates on page 4.

CHEWING GUM

Singapore, Apr. 17. Enquiries into Singapore's pre-war trade in chewing gum, a base for dealers the reply that stocks have perished due to oxidation, while tapping in the forests of Borneo, Sarawak and North Malaya has only just begun again.

Jelutong is similar in appearance to latex—but not so "rubbery." Before the war Singapore handled 6,000 tons a year for the American market, a trade worth \$2,000,000 (U.S.).—Reuter.

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Sui Hing Co.
Aw Pitt Seng Co.
Man Fung Store
Tak Sun Co.

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Department of Imports & Exports

Tax on Proprietary Medicines and Toilet Preparations

Attention is drawn to the fact that all Proprietary Medicines and Toilet Preparations must bear duty paid labels when sold in shops. These labels are:

1 cent for an article selling for not more than 11 cents*	22
2 cents " " " " " " " " " "	55
5 " " " " " " " " " "	\$1.10*
10 " " " " " " " " " "	\$1.65*
15 " " " " " " " " " "	\$2.20*
20 " " " " " " " " " "	

*including duty in each case.

and 10 cents for each dollar of fraction of a dollar by which the retail price exceeds \$2.20, i.e. an article sold for \$5.50 must bear a 50 cent label. It is an offence to sell improperly labelled goods, e.g. an article bearing a 20 cent label must not be sold for more than \$2.20.

The public are invited to send or phone their complaints to this office.

Phone Nos.: 39248—Mr. H. A. Taylor.

39301—Mr. H. R. J. Wolfe Flanagan.

Mr. David J. L. McWhirter.

39249—Mr. U. Kam Ping.

39243—Mr. Lo Kwong To.

H. A. TAYLOR

Superintendent.

Imports & Exports.

Hong Kong, April 16, 1946.

NOTICE

JAPANESE REPARATIONS

1. The British Empire reparations claims against Japan will shortly be considered in London. It is necessary that some estimate of the Hong Kong claim should be obtained as soon as possible with a view to providing the Colonial Office with the initial material necessary for the computation of the Empire claim.
2. It is requested, therefore, that all firms, institutions and private persons, irrespective of previous notification, will submit a brief summary of their claims classifying them as far as possible under the categories shown below. It is emphasised that all that is required at present is an estimate of loss sustained calculated on 1938 replacement costs if possible, if not the estimate should be expressed in present values together with some indication of the increase in costs since 1938. Justification or evidence in support of individual claims will be called for at a later date. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Reparations Claims Office,

1st Floor, Post Office Bldg.,
Des Voeux Road, Hong Kong.

The categories under which estimates are required are as follows:

A. DIRECT PHYSICAL DAMAGE.

This should not include damage due to under-maintenance and should include damage due to:

- (a) direct enemy action by bombing, shelling, burning, looting or denial; or
- (b) direct allied action by bombing, shelling, sabotage or denial.

Estimates may be classified under the following headings:

1. Industry and Commerce. Structures and equipment, stocks of raw materials and finished goods.
2. Shipping. Figures for ocean going vessels 600 gross tons and over should be distinguished from sailing and small craft.
3. Harbour, port works and installations. Wharves, buildings, harbour cranes, etc., and the value of cranes and other equipment destroyed or taken away.
4. Transportation. Damage to road vehicles and civil aeronautical equipment.
5. Agriculture.
6. Public buildings, Churches, hospitals, schools and all other public buildings. Estimates should make allowance for equipment as well as for structures.
7. Household goods and effects.
8. Gold, silver, national bank notes, foreign securities, jewellery, works of art and cultural objects.
9. Houses and buildings not included elsewhere.
10. Other items of physical damage.

B. UNDER-MAINTENANCE

This includes, besides under-maintenance, losses due to the exploitation of resources by the enemy or for the allied war effort.

C. CIVIL CASUALTIES.

Although complete records are available of all military casualties, it is probable that records of civil casualties are not complete. Persons who lost relatives (not serving in the armed forces) and whose deaths were due (a) to direct enemy action such as shooting, hanging, torture, imprisonment, etc., or (b) to allied action as a result of bombing, etc., should furnish full particulars distinguishing clearly between (a) and (b).

The above information is being called for in order that the Reparations Committee may be in a position to consider in general terms the claim of the British Empire on Japan and the shares of the various claimant Empire countries. Nothing is known in regard to the total sum which may ultimately be available. Claims submitted will be placed on record but it should be realised that this is no guarantee that they will ultimately be met either in whole or in part.

REDS TAKE CHANGCHUN

Government Defences Give Way Under Heavy Fire

Government Talks Continue

CHUNGKING, APRIL 17.

WHILE CHINESE ARE FIGHTING AND KILLING CHINESE IN THE BITTER CIVIL WAR BATTLES FOR THE MANCHURIAN CAPITAL OF CHANGCHUN, POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE WARRING FATIONS MET HERE TODAY IN CONFERENCES SO FRIGIDLY FORMAL THAT THE MANCHURIAN FIGHTING WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED.

YESTERDAY GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK ENTERTAINED POLITICAL LEADERS AT FORMAL TEA AND PROPOSED A SPEED UP OF THE REORGANISATION OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE SERIOUS FIGHTING IN NORTH-EASTERN CHINA WHEREIN COMMUNIST AND GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE BATTLING FOR THE POSSESSION OF KEY CITIES.

General Chou En-lai, Communist Leader No. 2, who last Sunday publicly stated the Communist intention to fight force with force in Manchuria, and declared that government attacks had turned the area into a civil war battlefield, answered Generalissimo Chiang's questions and attitude; he too ignored the fratricidal conflict.

Today, a special Kuomintang Committee named by the Generalissimo, met for the first time with leaders of the Communists and then with the heads of the Democratic League, the secondary minority party. Throughout the long conference, all mention of the Manchurian conflict was pushed aside. The conferees said they considered only "political questions."

Such a situation wherein leaders are able to cold shoulder a primary crisis—the civil war in Manchuria—and dispassionately discuss political issues is possible only in China.

Confusing Situation

From the reports of the Communist all-out assault on Changchun reaching Chungking tonight, the situation is still confusing. The Central News Agency said that Communist troops concentrated in the capital after heavy fighting in which the city's three airfields were the main objectives.

The government's military spokesman said that their reports indicated that Changchun's badly outnumbered garrison is still resisting the tightening Communist ring. The government garrison consisted of a few thousand National troops that were transported by air into Changchun last December.

The troops are mostly members of the New 6th Army. A small peace preservation corps force is also in the city.

Attacking Communist forces are described here as being heavily armed units that are largely equipped with Japanese arms that were seized following the collapse of the Pacific war.

Little Hope

Observers here said that there is little hope of pushing relief forces northward from the government's frontlines which are nearly 60 miles to the south. These forces, the best trained and best equipped in the entire Chinese army—have been making slow progress along the Mukden-Changchun railroad.

The only hope of immediate assistance to the besieged Changchun forces—if they are still resisting—is to fly reinforcements in government aircraft. It is reported here tonight, though without confirmation, that the National government may divert air transports already assigned to move government official employees to Nanking, in order to fly special reinforcements to Changchun.

The pro-government "Central Daily News," in an editorial today, urged that rescuing columns should be sent immediately to the assistance of the Changchun garrison and pleaded with troops in the Manchurian capital to fight to the last to hold the city from the Communists.—Associated Press.

Official Report

Chungking, Apr. 17.—Government dispatches yesterday reported that Chinese Communists had cracked the Government's outer defences in Changchun, swept into the capital, and reached the centre of Changchun with heavy artillery fire.

The Chinese Central News Agency reported that the Government had offered \$50,000 to the city's defenders to hold out for 10 days.

Government forces had offered \$50,000 to the city's defenders to hold out for 10 days.

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CHIANG'S PLEA FOR AGREEMENT

Chungking, April 17.

Major concessions stand in the way of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's plea for a speedy reorganization of the Chinese Government.

An official spokesman yesterday confirmed that Chiang had asked the Communists and other minorities to make immediate nominations to the State Council, the highest policy-making body in the interim government pending the adoption of the new constitution, and to name delegates to the National Assembly to permit the government to be re-organized before its removal to Nanking and allow the National Assembly to meet on the scheduled May 5 convention date there.

The following concessions which the Kuomintang must make if the Communists and others accept Chiang's invitation are listed by informed observers:

- (1) Give the minorities enough seats in the State Council to permit them a veto power over the Kuomintang majority.
- (2) Modify Government's military operations in Manchuria.
- (3) Possibly give the Communist forces equal right with the Kuomintang troops to take over Manchuria occupied areas.

Associated Press.

Marshall Flying To Peiping

Peiping, Apr. 17.—General George C. Marshall, President Truman's special envoy to China, recognising the urgency of the Manchurian situation, will fly direct from Tokyo to Peiping to again throw his powerful influence into the peace negotiations.

Marshall has cancelled an important conference with the Chinese Premier, Dr. T. V. Soong, in Shanghai to go direct to the Sino-American Truce Headquarters where he will meet with the unity committee of three on which he had been represented by a substitute.

The committee is returning here from Mukden where it found itself impotent to cope with the Manchurian hostilities.

Informed sources said that General George Marshall and his party intend to leave for Peiping this morning. General Marshall, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Byrd, wife of Brigadier-General Byrd, Marshall's aide, arrived yesterday afternoon and spent the night at the American Embassy as the guests of General Douglas MacArthur.—Associated Press.

Tense Situation

Chungking, Apr. 17.—The official Central News Agency, in a dispatch from Changchun, reported yesterday that Communist troops entered the city on April 15 after a night of continuous attack.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press Correspondent, Spencer Davis, radioed from Mukden that the situation in Changchun was so tense that a neutral plane probably would be sent there to remove five American correspondents, one of them a woman.—Associated Press.

Shidehara Keen To Stay

Tokyo, Apr. 17.

There has been no suggestion from General Douglas MacArthur since the election that Premier Shidehara's Occupation Cabinet should remain in office, but the Premier feels that it is his duty to stay on the job, he said today, in a press conference today. Premier Shidehara refuted Japanese reporters' sharp challenges that public opinion demanded that he should step down and abide by the outcome of the nation's first democratic election.

Baron Shidehara insisted that no party had won a majority and that the situation could not be stabilized by the resignation of his government. On the other hand, he declared, he felt the responsibility for seeing Japan's new constitution through the special Diet sessions in May.

The Premier said he is "giving deep consideration" to making connections with various political parties to form a majority party of the Diet.

This action would give the government the necessary support in the Diet.—Associated Press.

Spain Invites Investigation

London, Apr. 17.

The Spanish Embassy here last night announced that General Franco had invited Australia to take part in a Spanish-proposed United Nations investigation of Poland's allegation that German scientists have been working in Spain.

The invitation was made through the Embassy here because Australia has no diplomatic relations with Spain, a spokesman said.

Earlier invitation were issued to the United States, Britain, Egypt, the Netherlands and Brazil he added.—Associated Press.

Brazilian Offer

London, Apr. 17.

The Brazilian Government is "ready to accept everybody" as an immigrant, particularly displaced persons, the Brazilian delegate, Argen Guimaraes, told the United Nations Conference on displaced persons here yesterday.

Guimaraes stated that great opportunities were offered, especially to agricultural workers and that Brazil's vast spaces and different climates favoured a big-scale immigration programme.

Foreign settlers will be offered substantial help by the Federal and State Governments, he added. The Brazilian Government had previously issued invitations, especially to Italians to emigrate to South America.—Associated Press.

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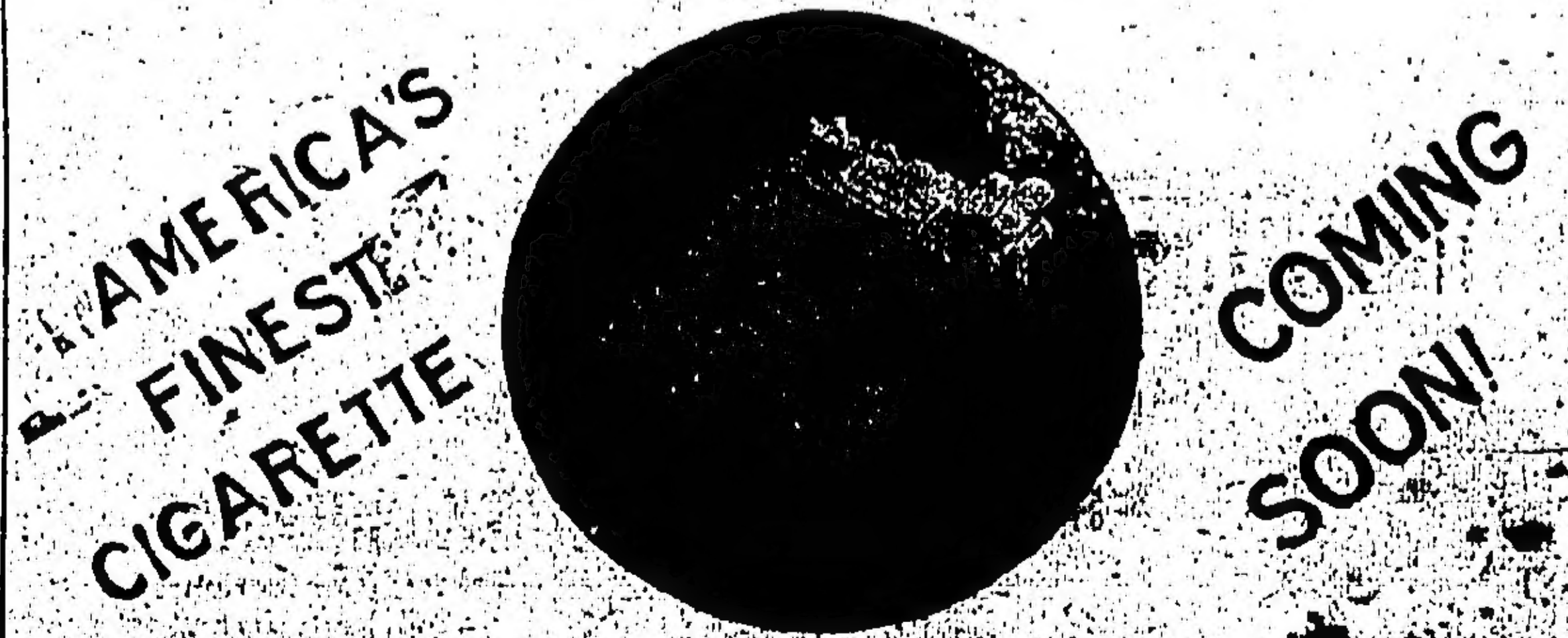
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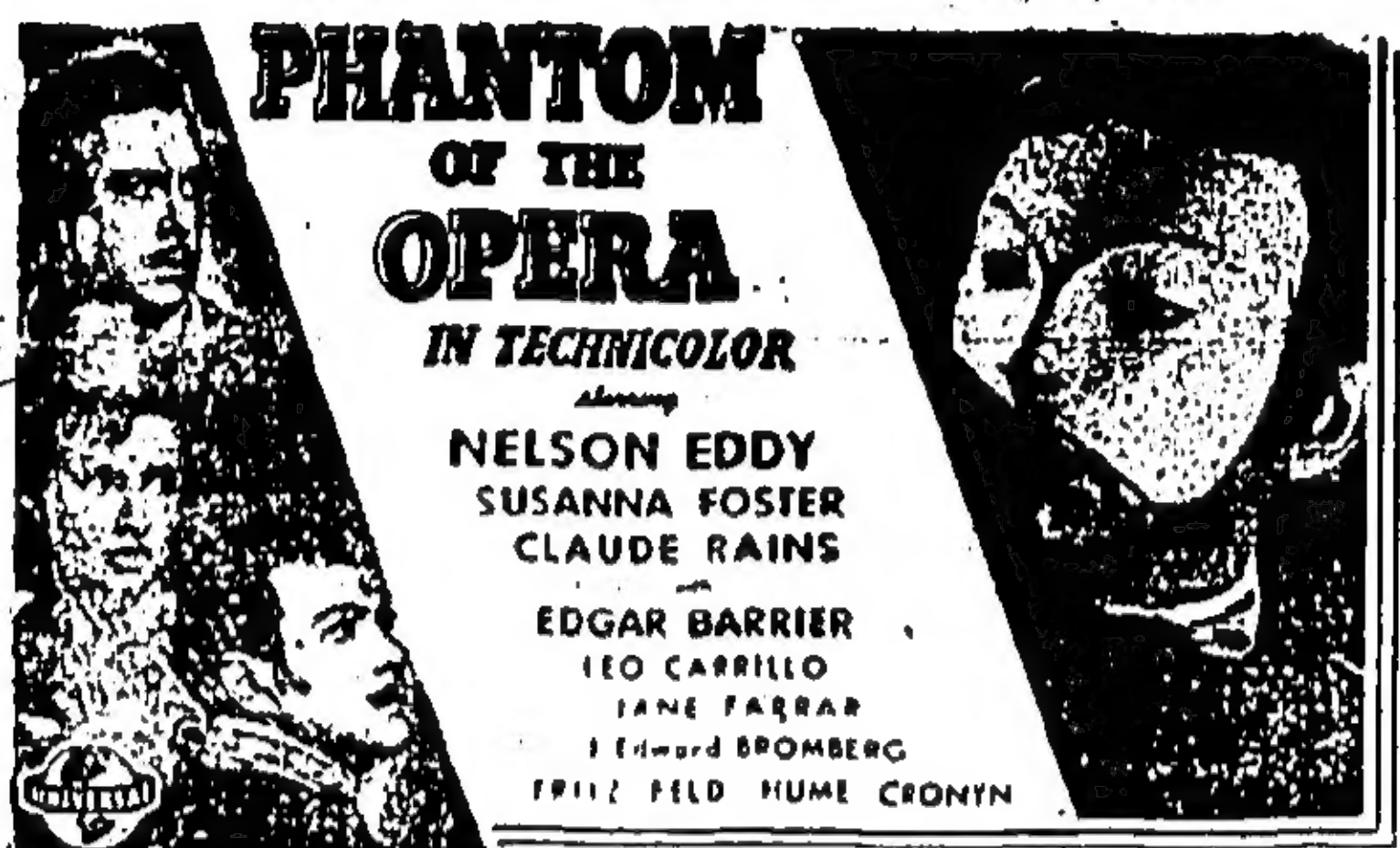
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Soviet Renews Attack On Britain And U.S.

DUTCH OFFER TO JAVA

Amsterdam, Apr. 17. The creation of an Indonesian Free State of Java and Sumatra, with a compromise retention of Dutch sovereignty in the other islands of the Netherlands East Indies, was forecast yesterday.

While Indonesian and Netherlands government leaders continued private conversations, the assumption of negotiations was arranged for this week—Associated Press.

BRIDGE NOTES

When a key finesse loses, a squeeze is often the last resource of a good player.

North, Dealer
Both sides vulnerable

S. A K 9
H. K Q 7
D. A Q 9
C. A 6 4 3

S. Q J 10 5
H. 6 3
D. 9 8 6
C. J 10 8 5

N. 8 4 3
H. 5 4 2
D. K J 10 4
C. 3 2

S. 7 6 2
H. A J 10 9 8
D. 5 4 2
C. Q K 7

The bidding:
North East South West
2NT Pass 3H Pass
4H Pass 6H Pass
Pass Pass

West opened the Queen of spades, dummy winning with the King. South drew three rounds of trumps and then finessed the Queen of diamonds.

East won with the King of diamonds and returned the diamond Jack, forcing out dummy's ace. And now it looked as though only a 3-3 club break could produce the slam; but South saw another chance.

The other chance was that West held the four clubs, together with the Jack and ten of spades. In that case, West could be squeezed out of a trick in the black suits. South therefore entered his hand with the club King to run his remaining two trumps. When the last trump was led, West held two spades and three clubs—with dummy holding the same number of each suit behind him.

If West discarded a club, dummy would make a long card in the suit; and if West discarded the ten of spades, dummy would win the slam-making trick with the nine of spades. The reward for the squeeze was a big one—1,330 points—the difference between making the slam and rubber and taking a one-trick set!

Yesterday you were Howard Schenken's partner and, non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, you held:

S. K J 9 7
H. A J 4
D. K 10 6 3
C. A 10

The bidding:
Maier You Jacoby Schenken
1S Pass 2C Pass
3C (7)
ANSWER: Pass. You have no assurance of being able to defeat this contract, so must pass. Perhaps the opponents will proceed to get themselves into trouble.

Score 100 per cent for pass, 0 for any other bid.

QUESTION
Today you hold the same hand, and the bidding continues:
Maier You Jacoby Schenken
1S Pass 2C Pass
3C Pass 3NT Pass
Pass (?)
What to you bid? (Answer Tomorrow).

MARCH TO SPAIN!

Paris, Apr. 16. A source close to the French Foreign Office today scoffed at the Madrid radio charge that a secret French-Russian agreement might lead to a Russian march through France to Spain.

This source said that the broadcast was "just what you would expect to hear from Franco's radio." The French forces patrolling the Spanish border conform to an organization of border police, the source continued—Associated Press.

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MOSCOW, APRIL 17. THE SOVIET MAGAZINE "NEW TIMES" TODAY PUBLISHED A SERIES OF ARTICLES CONDEMNING BRITISH POLICY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD—IN THE MIDDLE EAST, GERMANY, GREECE, TRIESTE AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE ITSELF.

THE UNITED STATES WAS LINKED UP WITH BRITAIN IN SEVERAL OF THE CRITICISMS.

The "New Times," referring to the Anglo-Trans-Jordan treaty signed in London last week, said that "plans are afoot to keep on Trans-Jordan territory permanent forces of 40,000 Poles of General Anders' Army." The magazine asserted that Britain was not only striving to maintain her old position in Trans-Jordan but to set against the national interest of Arab, adding "Arab

observers see a direct threat to peace."

Reviewing the pamphlet on the Colonial question issued by the British Labour Party in 1943, the "New Times" wrote of the "ruthless exploitation, poverty and starvation" in the British Empire.

The magazine said that India's wealth was going across the ocean and her people were starving holding this up as a typical example of British administration of dependent countries. It added that the position was no better in other Colonial Empires—French, Belgian and Dutch.

"Dark Spots"

Turning to the United States in its comprehensive condemnation, the article said that United States negroes were still oppressed, and the rights of Indians and Latin Americans prejudiced, and declared that the promises made to the Philippine Islands have not been fulfilled. After adverse comment, coupled with the name of Britain in the British Zone of Germany, the Greek elections and the situation in Trieste, the magazine concluded: "These are dark spots on the body of modern civilization. The situation evokes acute and just discontent among hundreds of millions of people and creates a constant menace to the peace and security of nations."

—Reuter.

Britain Not To Take Action On Iran

London, Apr. 16. Mr. Hector McNell, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to a question by Squadron-Leader Keeling (Conservative) whether the Foreign Secretary proposed to take any action under the United Nations Charter on the "arming of Iranian and Iraqi Kurds by the Soviet Army and their training by Soviet technicians," said: "The Foreign Secretary considers that in the first place it is for the governments concerned, on the basis of the evidence at their disposal, to decide whether they want to take any action for referring to the United Nations any alleged interference in the internal affairs of their country."

Mr. Morgan Price (Labour) asked if, in view of the fact that the Soviet Union had undertaken to carry out her obligations under the 1942 treaty and withdraw her troops from Iran, the Foreign Secretary would initiate tripartite negotiations between Great Britain, the Soviet Union and Iran on the whole question of future concessions for oil and other undertakings in the various regions of that country.

Mr. McNell replied: "The Foreign Secretary has no doubt in his mind that the Treaty of Alliance of 1942 between this country, the Soviet Union and Iran lays on the Soviet Government as well as the British Government the obligation to withdraw their troops not later than six months after the conclusion of hostilities with Germany and Japan. The Foreign Secretary doubts whether any useful purpose could be served at the present time by initiating United Nations negotiations as suggested by Mr. Morgan Price."—Reuter.

Republican Propaganda In Madrid

Madrid, Apr. 16. Madrid National Police Headquarters yesterday stated that there was a Republican flag on a post carrying a high tension cable on the Segovia bridge at dawn on Sunday, the 16th anniversary of the Spanish Republic.

The police added that two other Republican flags were found, one on the French students' residences in the university city and the other in a middle class residential district.

The fuse of a noise bomb, found in a central business district, was removed before it could explode, and lights and other Republican propaganda were picked up at various points in the city, the police stated.—Associated Press.

Chu Min-yl, Asks For Death

Soochow, Apr. 16. As the trial of Chu Min-yl, former foreign minister of the puppet Nanking government, ended today, the defendant again asked the court to give him death in preference to a life sentence. The verdict is expected to be reached on April 22.

The court listened in silence to the defendant's delivery of a defiant, sarcastic oration in which he praised the late puppet Premier, Wang Ching-wei for his statesmanship and reiterated that the late premier's goal was China's welfare.

He declared that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, by failing to take any action against the puppet government, had betrayed the Chinese people and that the puppet government was the only government that had stood for the Chinese people.

His speech was the longest ever made by a defendant in the trial.

Italian Musician In London

London, Apr. 17. Victor Di Sabata, famed Italian conductor, arrived in London yesterday for a six weeks' stay during which he will lead concerts of the London Philharmonic and B.B.C. Symphony orchestras.

The first of Di Sabata's five appearances with the London Philharmonic will be on April 21. A British broadcasting company programme will feature operatic excerpts for which he is famous.

A formal reception was scheduled for today at the Italian Embassy.—Associated Press.

FRENCH HONOURS

Chungking, Apr. 17. French General Alphonse Juin, heading the goodwill mission to China, today presented the French Minister of China, Wang Ching-wei, with the Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

—Associated Press.

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OWING TO THE EASTER HOLIDAYS DOCKET HOLDERS ENTITLED TO MAKE PURCHASES ON 19th, 20th & 22nd APRIL ARE NOTIFIED THAT SALES ON THESE DATES WILL BE MADE FROM 8.30 A.M. TILL 1 P.M. ONLY

THE DAIRY FARM, ICE & COLD STORAGE CO., LTD.
LANE, CRAWFORD, LTD.

Big Allocation Of Flour To Japan

Washington, April 17. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said that General MacArthur has been promised 150,000 tons monthly of wheat, flour or equivalent cereal to help feed the Japanese during the April-June quarter. He said that the allocation is in addition to the 100,000 tons of army surplus in the Pacific which will be used to help supply Japan.

Anderson said that about 10,000 tons of wheat and flour were sent to Japan during the first quarter. The 450,000 tons assigned to Japan for the current quarter will come out of the United States 3,313,000-ton export goal for the period.

Anderson said that the allocation was made at MacArthur's urgent request and upon the recommendations of a special food mission, was sent to Japan recently.

Anderson said that the amount is short of MacArthur's request. He said he did not know whether the Japanese ration will have to be reduced. He said that this matter is for MacArthur to decide.

Fred Rossiter, of the Agriculture Department for the Far East, who was a member of the Japanese food mission, said that Japan definitely does not have enough food. However, he said that the mission found no evidence of starvation. Rossiter said that Japan is making progress in the collection of larger quantities of food from the farmers for city distribution.—Associated Press.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

Arrivals
Yesterday:—S.S. Samsak from Milke, H.M.S. Lagos from Shanghai and S.S. Mongolia.

Scheduled Arrivals
Tomorrow:—S.S. Fort Amsterdam from Bangkok and H.M.S. Vervan Bay and 4 L.C.T.'s from Labuan.

Departures
Yesterday:—H.M.S. Rame Head and H.M.S. Whimbrell for Fratas Island, H.D.M.L. 1082 to survey and U.S. L.S.T. 208 and 638.

Scheduled Departures
Today:—H.M.S. Swiftsure for Shanghai, H.M.S. Phaeasant and H.M.S. 40, 154 for Shanghai, and U.S.S. Hyacinth.

Tomorrow:—U.S.S. Parks.

N.Y. STOCK MARKET

New York, Apr. 17. Stocks recovered nearly all last week's decline. Steel, Motor and selected industrial shares led the early upturn. Rail, metal and oil issues joined the advance and closed strong. Leaders gained from one to over two points.

Transfers totalled 1,450,000 shares.

Leaders included U.S. Steel, Anaconda, Kennecott Copper, American Can, International Paper, Douglas Aircraft, Montgomery Ward, Standard Oil of New Jersey, Eastman Kodak, Chrysler and General Motors.

Dow Jones Averages: 207.15
30 Industrials: 77.15
20 Rails: 64.37
15 Utilities: 42.99

NEW YORK EXCHANGE

New York, Apr. 17. The New York Foreign Exchange market closed as follows:
Canadian (Open Market): \$80.81 1/4
Sterling: 4.03 1/2
Franc: 96
Argentine: 34.46
Brazil: 1.25
Mexico: 20.55

SHANGHAI CURRENCY

Shanghai, Apr. 17. Open market exchange rates on the Shanghai market today:
Gold: 1000
U.S. dollar: 200
British pound: 100
U.S. dollar in "unofficial" market: 200
British pound: 100
U.S. dollar: 200
British pound: 100

CENTRAL THEATRE

DAILY at 2.30, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15
RKO RADIO PICTURE
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CATHAY

TO-DAY ONLY
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Johnny WEISSMULLER
Maureen O'SULLIVAN

"TARZAN'S SECRET TREASURE"

—To-Morrow—
Tyronne Power in
"SON OF FURY"

ORIENTAL

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FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY
Robert TAYLOR Greta GARBO

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with Lionel Barrymore

Next Attraction
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MAJESTIC

SHOWING TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.00, 7.00 & 9.00 p.m.
No Chains Can Hold Him!
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IF the Commando Captain, who gave three ladies a lift to Repulse Bay on Sunday, found a handbag initial "M." would he kindly communicate with Box No. 81, "China Mail."

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PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the Company's Registered Office, Alexandra Building, Hong Kong, on Thursday, the 18th April, 1946, at 12 noon for the purpose of receiving the Report of Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the eight months ended 31st December, 1941.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON.

General Managers, Hong Kong, March 25, 1946.

NOTICE

On and after the 18th April, 1946, the following Fares will come into operation on the Jordan Road, Mongkok and Shamshuipo Ferry Services:—
1st Class Single Fare 20 Cents
1st Class Single Fare 10 Cents (Armed Forces, Police and Children).
3rd Class Single Fare 10 Cents

Persons in Vehicles on Vehicular Ferry ... 20 Cents

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STORY OF LETTER

(Continued from Page 1)

Before the re-occupation, you had already prepared your defence?—Yes.

You did not know then if you were to defend yourself before a British tribunal or a Chinese tribunal?—That is so.

In preparation for that day you had prepared your defence in writing?—I ask the Court to permit me to speak a few words regarding this letter. During the Japanese occupation I always remained an anti-Japanese factor. Most of my friends adopted that attitude. At a certain period I heard that Henry Lee had been arrested and that it was Moriama who arrested him. When I heard of that I thought I was accused, George Wong, who was responsible. Therefore the greater part of my letter was false, so, as I am appearing in Court today I must speak from my conscience. I must tell the Court that the greater portion of the letter was untrue.

When did you write this letter?—Before peace was realised. In July or August last year.

Claims Privilege

The first part says this: "In respect of my activities and work in Hong Kong between May, 1942, and August, 1945, I know that some day I will have to give an account to the Chinese Republic." You did prepare this letter as a possible defence when the time came?—In view of all the sufferings of China throughout these eight years, I purposely set up a story to incriminate those who worked against the Japanese.

It is not your real defence?—No. I am now on oath.

You say this: "Why did I become a Japanese special affairs member?"—I claim the privilege to reserve my defence.

You were a special duty member, were you not?—No, I do not want to give you an answer.

You go on to refer to how you were driven into the Japanese service through George Wong and a Japanese Army sergeant called Nagauchi in May, 1942?—Again, I wish the Court to allow me to make an explanation with regard to this passage. It is untrue.

You say in that letter that George Wong was a special duty detective?—I had no knowledge that he was special duty detective of the Kwantung Army, though I put it down. I must tell this Court that the letter was written to get George Wong into trouble.

ROYAL HONG KONG GOLF CLUB

There will be transport for golfers to Fanling on Friday, Saturday & Monday, April 19th, 20th & 22nd as well as on Sunday 21st.

P. G. GRAY, Hon. Secretary.

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Tel. 56125.

"Deliberate Lies"

Let's have it this way. Hector Lee. Many of the things in this letter were deliberate lies?—Yes.

Was there such a person as a Japanese Army Sergeant called Nagauchi?—Yes. There was such a man.

And he was the man to whom George Wong was attached in his work?—At the very beginning, George Wong introduced this man Nagauchi to me for smuggling business.

Was George Wong assisting Nagauchi?—Only for the purpose of smuggling.

Were you ever accused by Nagauchi of being a member of the C.C. clique of the Blue Shirt Party?—Yes. This is a false story again.

You gave a lot of details of your being taken to the detention room for three days with-

CIVIL WAR

Washington, Apr. 17.
The United States may make some common sense on the resumption of civil war in China.

The Secretary of State, James F. Byrnes, told a press conference today that Gen. George C. Marshall, President Truman's special envoy to China, "will report in the very near future on conditions in China and the United States may have something to say at that time." Associated Press.

out food or water. Is that also false?—That is untrue.

Witness proceeded to say that his references to George Wong were untrue and that he had given accused's name for that of Ho Kei. He wrote the letter, Hector Lee said, in such a way as to make it harmful to George Wong, as he suspected him then of being responsible for the gendarmes seeking two of his friends, Francisco Leson and Enrique Lee.

"Only Deviation"

Mr. Lo: Deviation: You say that the only deviation from the truth in the letter is that the name of George Wong is substituted for that of Ho Kei?—The whole of this part of my letter is false.

Mr. d'Almada: Witnesses are called to substantiate the truth. You are attempting to substantiate a falsity and so far you have not succeeded.

Mr. de Silva: You told the Court that you believed at first that George Wong was respon-

sible for Henry Lee's arrest?—Correct.

Why did you believe that?—According to what people said, Moriama and Yoshimoto arrested Henry Lee. So I thought George Wong did it.

Because of accused's association with these two?—Whether or not he was working for Moriama I cannot say. But he was going about with Moriama.

You mention that at the interview you and George Wong had with Endo, two suspects were mentioned, Francisco Leson and Henry Lee?—It was Ho Kei of Shamshuipo who had suspicion of these men.

You believed then and you believe now that it was Ho Kei who was spying on these two men?—At that time it was I who asked Francisco Leson and Henry Lee to leave Hong Kong temporarily.

Prison Conversations

When did you change your mind concerning George Wong's guilt in regard to Henry Lee?—It was after I was detained in Stanley Prison and also after what I had heard from other people.

Especially during the exercise hour when you were free to talk to George Wong?—I did question him in Stanley Prison.

It appears that you will defend yourself, if charged, as a very loyal person during the Japanese occupation?—And I will have evidence to prove that.

Will you also say that you were acting for the Chinese against the Japanese?—It is my business. I will make my defence at my trial.

Will you also produce a document testifying that you were a member of some special force or other?—I will defend myself not only from my mouth. I will prove some facts.

Instead of being in prison, you should be awarded some medal for gallantry during the Japanese days?—I don't mean that. But concerning my behaviour and actions during the period the Government can make some inquiries.

From His Conscience

Mr. Lo: Before coming to Court you knew that you had not been identified by anyone though you have been detained about seven months. Do you, Hector Lee, elect to come to Court and tell lies?—I am not telling lies.

What is true? The evidence you gave on oath today or the things written in the document brought up?—I am giving evidence today under oath and every word deposited is from my conscience.

Case Against Gehring Withdrawn

(Continued from Page 2)

During the period in question, he was devoting himself to the service of the Maryknoll Mission in Kowloon. He slept there and remained on the premises practically all the time. He may have gone out occasionally but his duty at that time was to protect the Sisters of that Institution and the Sisters have expressed their gratitude for the services he rendered to them.

"Like A Carbon Copy"

The second overt act was that on or about the 20th of May 1942, he wrote and sent to a Japanese, named Mr. Yamoto, a letter to the tenor and effect of a document that was set out in the charge. The Prosecution has not got the original letter. They have in their possession an unsigned piece of paper which looks like a carbon copy on which the words set out in the charge appear. Mr. Gehring categorically denies having prepared such a letter, written, signed or sent it. He knew Mr. Yamoto, who was a senior official in the Japanese Broadcasting Organisation in Hong Kong. I submit most strongly that it is ludicrous to think that Mr. Gehring, if he had intended to give information against the persons named in that letter, would have written the same to Mr. Yamoto. Mr. Yamoto, as I have mentioned, was connected with the Broadcasting Organisation. He had nothing to do with the disciplinary measures to be taken against third nationals or enemies.

He was not connected with the Gestapo and it would have been as futile for Mr. Gehring to have written to him as it would be for any of us to write to the Secretary of ZBW to report a criminal charge under the present Administration.

Belgian Case

The third overt act was that he aided and assisted and took part in the investigation by the Japanese of suspected espionage activities being conducted on behalf of the King by certain Belgian gentlemen alleging that they had the use of a wireless transmitter. Mr. Gehring does know something about this charge. He received a message from a young lady who, incidentally, was one of the persons who identified him at an identification parade and who at one time was employed by the Japanese Broadcasting Authorities as a Secretary to Mr. Yamoto, and was then closely connected with Japanese officers of the Gestapo, to call at an office in Exchange Building close to the I.A.C. office. Mr. Gehring went to see her and found various people in the room, including the I.R.C. office. Mr. Gehring and she then asked him if he would get in touch with the three Belgian gentlemen named in the charge, and make enquiries about the receiving set which the Japanese thought they possessed. Mr. Gehring indignantly refused to take any part in this investigation and left the office. He reported the matter to certain Japanese officials who were not connected with the Gestapo and asked them to take up the matter for him and to see that he was left free from any such importunities. As a result he heard nothing more of this matter. He did not make any investigations. He was not concerned with them.

One can understand the possibility that an ex-Gestapo informer would wish to curry favour with the British Authorities by laying information. That is a very different proposition to establishing that the charge is true. It is a conclusion that also had worked to Mr. Yamoto.

What Mr. Blakely had stated about the letter was correct but, in fairness to the Crown, it should be stated that the document was found in Gehring's residence at the time of his arrest and that the Crown would have asked for the inference that the original would not have been found in Gehring's possession if he had sent it to Yamoto.

A Surprise

It was not true that Yamoto was not connected with the Gestapo, and the statement that the young lady mentioned was connected with the Gestapo came as a surprise to the Crown.

Concluding Mr. Silva said that he was not in court to condemn or to whitewash Gehring but to state the reasons for the Crown's withdrawal.

Will you tell the Court what your principal object was in preparing that document?—At first I was under the impression that Henry Lee, a friend of mine, had been arrested by George Wong. I was prepared to do him every possible harm I could.

Mr. d'Almada: You suggest that the statements in this letter are false?—The greater portion of the letter is false.

What was the balance?—A certain part of the letter consists of true facts.

Mr. Lo: For whom was that letter intended?—I was then thinking there certainly would be persons coming forth to make inquiries.

Can you explain how this letter came into the hands of the authorities?—After my arrest a search was made at my house and this was found.

Never Questioned

Before your coming to this Court did anyone question you with regard to this letter?—No. I was never questioned about it. Have you ever been questioned by anyone in authority during those seven months?—No.

Do you mean to tell the Court that the majority of persons there have not been questioned?—Were you aware of the fact, Hector Lee, before coming to Court that this document of yours was in the possession of the authorities?—Before seeing this letter to-day I had no knowledge that it was in the hands of the authorities.

You have told this Court that you believed firmly in the guilt of George Wong in the arrest of Henry Lee when you wrote this letter?—Yes.

You wrote this letter to accuse Henry Lee?—I was of opinion in the very beginning that George Wong was one of the greatest traitors and I was prepared to do him harm.

This letter was written, before the British came back to Hong Kong, with a view to bringing this traitor to book?—Yes.

When the British came back you were here?—Yes. Didn't you say to yourself then that here was your opportunity to do some good for your country and this Colony and produce this document to the authorities?—When the British came back I had this in mind.

In A Sense

Your inactivity between the time of the British occupation and the time you were taken to Stanley seems to me more consistent with the fact that this letter was written in your defence rather than to bring anyone to book?—I had not yet written everything I wanted to write. In a sense it

(Continued on Page 6)

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S.S. WOSANG to Shanghai 20th April
S.S. YUENSANG Singapore, Penang, Calcutta, 21st April

ARRIVALS

S.S. TAKSANG from Swatow 19th April
S.S. KUTSANG (Operator P. & O.) from Bombay (via Singapore) 30th April

IN PORT

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